

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Roddy (Reg. No. 50,577) on July 29, 2011.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

1-42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) An image forming device comprising:

a printing unit to print an image on a print medium;

a scanning unit including a scanner to scan a document to generate scanned document data;

an internal storage unit

a universal serial bus (USB) input/output port removably connectable to a USB memory unit; and

a control unit coupled to the USB input/output port to detect an attachment state of the USB memory unit with respect to the USB input/output port,

wherein the control unit is coupled to the scanning unit and operable to control storing of the scanned document data generated by the scanning unit according to the detected attachment state of the USB memory unit such that when it is determined that the USB memory unit is attached to the USB input/output port, the control unit is operable to store the scanned document data generated by the scanning unit in the USB memory unit,

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wherein the control unit is coupled to the printing unit and operable to control printing of the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit such that when the USB memory unit is detached and then attached again to the USB input/output port, the control unit is operable to read the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit and directly print the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit via the printing unit without receiving printing instructions from a host computer,

wherein the control unit stores the scanned document data in the internal storage unit when the USB memory unit is not attached to the USB input/output port, and

wherein the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit is in a scanned document data format.

44-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) The image forming device of claim 43, wherein the control unit controls storing of the scanned document data stored in the internal storage unit into the USB memory unit when it is determined that the USB memory unit is attached to the USB input/output port.

48. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 43, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying information about the image forming device; and
a manipulation unit for manipulating the image forming device,

wherein, if a plurality of pieces of scanned data are stored in the USB memory unit, at least one piece of the scanned data is selectable via the manipulation unit.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 43, further comprising:

a second input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit, which is selected from the group consisting of a memory stick (MS), a compact flash (CF) card, a secure

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digital (SD) memory card, a multimedia card (MMC), a smart media (SM) card, a universal serial bus (USB) memory card, and an xD-picture card.

52-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 43, further comprising:

a third input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit which is selected from the group consisting of a memory stick (MS), a compact flash (CF) card, a secure digital (SD) memory card, a multimedia card (MMC), a smart media (SM) card, a universal serial bus (USB) memory card, and an xD-picture card.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 43, 47, 48, 51 and 57 are allowed. These claims are renumbered as 1-4.

4. The Following is the examiner's statement of reasons for allowable subject matter.

Claim 43 is allowed over the prior art of record because the examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches: An image forming device comprising:

a printing unit to print an image on a print medium;

a scanning unit including a scanner to scan a document to generate scanned document data;

an internal storage unit

a universal serial bus (USB) input/output port removably connectable to a USB memory unit; and

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a control unit coupled to the USB input/output port to detect an attachment state of the USB memory unit with respect to the USB input/output port,

wherein the control unit is coupled to the scanning unit and operable to control storing of the scanned document data generated by the scanning unit according to the detected attachment state of the USB memory unit such that when it is determined that the USB memory unit is attached to the USB input/output port, the control unit is operable to store the scanned document data generated by the scanning unit in the USB memory unit,

wherein the control unit is coupled to the printing unit and operable to control printing of the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit such that when the USB memory unit is detached and then attached again to the USB input/output port, the control unit is operable to read the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit and directly print the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit via the printing unit without receiving printing instructions from a host computer,

wherein the control unit stores the scanned document data in the internal storage unit when the USB memory unit is not attached to the USB input/output port, and

wherein the scanned document data stored in the USB memory unit is in a scanned document data format.

Misawa (7733387) teaches the method of transferring files to a portable storage device upon detecting the attachment of the portable storage device into the system. However, it does not teach a method of printing the scanned document data stored in the USB memory without receiving printing instructions from a host computer when the USB memory unit is detached and then attached again to the USB input/output port. Note that Misawa does not include a printing unit in the device.

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Tanaka (7414746) teaches the method of automatically printing a print file stored in a portable storage when the storage is inserted into the printer. However, there is no teaching where the single device/unit scans the image data, stores it in a USB in a scanned document data format, and then prints the stored image data when the USB is inserted back again.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chan Park at 571-272-7409. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/AKWASI M SARPONG/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/CHAN S PARK/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625

07/29/2011